

to qualify for the 1964 games in Tokyo, I was a 17-year-old high school student who did not really know what the Olympic games were all about. While many remember the 1968 games in Mexico City, the unrest and the civil rights movement, I also remember the countless world records and Olympic records set during the track and field competition. In 1972, I watched in horror as Israeli athletes tragically lost their lives to the hands of terrorists. The games did go on, most importantly to show that terrorists would not break the spirit of the Olympic ideal of a more peaceful world.

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In 1972, I also had a personal tragedy as the favorite in the 1500 meters for the United States; and with the world watching, I was tripped and fell and was not knocked out of the competition. I cannot begin to describe the anger and disappointment I felt at that moment. However, I no longer feel that was a tragedy. Rather, I point to that event as a turning point that taught me there was more to life than running. It brought to new life the importance of God and family in my life.

Every Olympian has their own stories to overcoming long odds and personal triumph, regardless of whether they stood on the podium and received a medal. It is my honor to stand on the House floor in their place.

Mr. Speaker, as we look toward the next century of the Olympic Games, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our Olympic athletes and coaches along with their families and supporters.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I would like to make a few additional points.

First, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN), on behalf of all of us in the House for being a distinguished Olympian in and of himself, and it proves once again the greatness of this country, that a person like the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) would get a chance to work in the Olympics and then come and be in the Olympics of legislation.

We are delighted. The Olympics obviously are a significant event for all nations to share in the accomplishments of men and women in the area of athletics.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for expediting this matter, and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) for bringing it to our attention. We strongheartedly endorse it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 259

Whereas for over 100 years, the Olympic movement has built a more peaceful and better world by educating young people through amateur athletics, by bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and by forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee is dedicated to coordinating and developing amateur athletic activity in the United States to foster productive working relationships among sports-related organizations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and supports amateur athletic activities involving the United States and foreign nations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and encourages physical fitness and public participation in amateur athletic activities;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee assists organizations and persons concerned with sports in the development of athletic programs for amateur athletes;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee protects the opportunity of each amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, and official to participate in amateur athletic competition;

Whereas athletes representing the United States at the Olympic games have achieved great success personally and for the Nation;

Whereas thousands of men and women of the United States are focusing their energy and skill on becoming part of the United States Olympic team and aspire to compete in the 2000 summer Olympic games in Sydney, Australia, and the 2002 winter Olympic games in Salt Lake City, Utah;

Whereas the Nation takes great pride in the qualities of commitment to excellence, grace under pressure, and good will toward other competitors exhibited by the athletes of the United States Olympic team; and

Whereas June 23 is the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement, representing the date on which the Congress of Paris approved the proposal of Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympics: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the Olympics;

(2) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 259.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE CONCERNING TROUBLED PRE-ELECTION PERIOD IN REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 500) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled pre-election period in the Republic of Zimbabwe, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I believe, again, the House needs to understand why we are proceeding with this bill in an expeditious manner.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from New York for an explanation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Zimbabwe will go to the polls next weekend to elect their parliament. Since its independence 20 years ago, Zimbabwe has been, in effect, a one-party state. The liberation party of President Robert Mugabe, which emerged from a war, for majority war with slogans shouting for equality and justice, has become thoroughly corrupted by the absolute power that it has enjoyed these past 2 decades.

Change is now at hand. The people of Zimbabwe are patient, but their patience appears to have come to an end. Candidates from parliament for the opposition parties have registered in record numbers. The leading opposition party appears to have overwhelming support among the urban populations of Zimbabwe.

But President Mugabe and his party cronies who have grown rich in government do not want to accept an honest political contest. He has used land reform as a political wedge issue for years, refusing credible programs that would have addressed the issue in favor of a soapbox for demagoguery. Now he has taken extreme measures, provoking widespread violence against farmers, teachers, and farm workers.

The citizens of Zimbabwe remain steadfast. The murders, the beatings and harassment that have been visited upon them have merely strengthened their resolve.

H. Res. 500 expresses this Congress' profound dismay at these kinds of practices. It also conveys our solidarity and our support for those who struggle for democratic freedom wherever they may be.

I would like to thank our friend and distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), who was

an original cosponsor of this measure; and I would also like to commend the Subcommittee on African Affairs, ably led by its distinguished chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who are also cosponsors. They held an informative and timely hearing on the situation in Zimbabwe just last week.

Accordingly, I urge our colleagues to join in support of this measure.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I would like to make some additional points.

First, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for expediting this matter and, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, along with the ranking member, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). It was my pleasure to be a cosponsor with the chairman of this resolution.

It is simple but it strongly condemns the ongoing spiral of political violence in Zimbabwe. Mr. Speaker, for those of us who cherish life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and believe that government should be for the people and by the people, the current situation in Zimbabwe is not only atrocious, but quite painful.

As we witness the escalation of violence in that tiny nation, it appears that due process, free speech, and the right of assembly are ignored. And if quick and robust attention is not brought to these matters, I fear this nation could slip into civil unrest and economic devastation.

First, I am gravely concerned about Zimbabwe's economic downturn and that government's inability to control the inflation, unemployment, and violence. The economy has suffered and continues to suffer and Zimbabweans are paying a terrible price. Agriculture production is down and inflation is over 70 percent.

President Mugabe must immediately demonstrate a willingness to address its economic problems strategically and equitably.

Second, I would like to express my deep concern for the people of Zimbabwe by condemning the many egregious acts of violence and intimidation occurring there against both Zimbabwean farm workers and individuals who support opposition parties.

Recently, the chairman held a full hearing on this matter in the Subcommittee on Africa, and we heard from one of those members of the opposition party by way of technology that is now being utilized in Committee on International Relations.

The ruling party militants have attacked teachers and health workers, forcing many to flee their clinics and schools in the wake of pre-election violence. I strongly condemn the widespread and violent attacks in

Zimbabwe, including reports of murder, rape, beatings, and burning of homes.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the government of Zimbabwe is supportive of the squatters who currently occupy white farms. The results of the February 12 referendum provided additional momentum for demographic reform activists. The people of Zimbabwe sent a message by their ballot that a constitution perpetuating state power was not acceptable.

And in the interest of time, I would just like to say that the bottom line is this: President Mugabe and his key associates fear losing power in a democratic election in which their adversaries are fellow black Zimbabweans.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to believe that we must act swiftly to avoid further disaster. I believe that with Sierra Leone in a state of anarchy, the Democratic Republic of Congo a battlefield, and the other parts of the African continent are undergoing cataclysmic upheavals, we cannot allow Zimbabwe to collapse as well.

There is still time, but only if President Mugabe listens, acts swiftly and returns to his senses.

Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I would like to make some additional points.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is simple, but it strongly condemns the ongoing spiral of political violence in Zimbabwe. It further condemns all violence directed against farm workers; recommends that a bipartisan delegation travel to Zimbabwe under the auspices of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, to monitor elections scheduled for June 24 and 25, 2000; and urges President Mugabe and his ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front to enforce the rule of law, and support international efforts to assist land reform.

Mr. Speaker, for those of us who cherish life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and believe that government should be for the people and by the people, the current situation in Zimbabwe is not only atrocious but quite painful. As we witness the escalation of violence in that tiny nation, it appears that due process, free speech, and the right of assembly are ignored. And if quick and robust attention is not brought to these matters, I fear this nation could slip into civil unrest and economic devastation.

First, I am gravely concerned about Zimbabwe's economic downturn and that government's inability to control inflation, unemployment and violence. The economy has suffered and continues to suffer, and Zimbabweans are paying a terrible price. Agricultural production is down and inflation is over 70 percent. President Mugabe must immediately demonstrate a willingness to address its economic problems strategically and equitably.

Second, I'd like to express my deep concern for the people of Zimbabwe by condemning the many egregious acts of violence and intimidation occurring there against both Zimbabwean farm workers and individuals who support opposition parties. Recently, Mr. Speaker, the ruling party militants have attacked teachers and health workers, forcing many to flee their clinics and schools in the

wake of pre-election violence. I strongly condemn the widespread and violent attacks in Zimbabwe, including reports of murder, rape, beatings and burning of homes.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the government of Zimbabwe is supportive of the squatters who currently occupy white farms. The results of the February 12th referendum provided additional momentum for democratic reform activists. The people of Zimbabwe sent a message by their ballot that a constitution perpetuating state power was not acceptable. President Mugabe's supported constitution was defeated with approximately 55 percent of all ballots against the measure. However, Mr. Mugabe rejected rulings from the independent judiciary. He is supportive of the squatters who currently occupy white farms. To be sure, while the take overs have been largely peaceful, the Zimbabwe Supreme Court has ruled these actions to be illegitimated and have ordered the protesting civil war veterans off the white farms. However, the police and security personnel have yet to enforce the court decree, and it is now perceived that the Zimbabwean government is countering the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this: President Mugabe and his key associates fear losing power in a democratic election in which their adversaries are fellow black Zimbabweans.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to believe that we must act swiftly to avoid further disaster. I believe that with Sierra Leone in a state of anarchy, the Democratic Republic of the Congo a battle field and other parts of the African continent undergoing cataclysmic upheavals, we cannot allow Zimbabwe to collapse as well. There is still time, but only if President Mugabe listens, acts swiftly and returns to his senses.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a longstanding friendship with the people of Zimbabwe, and we must do everything we can to preserve and advance democratic gains, protect civil society, and help the people of Zimbabwe to uphold the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 500

Whereas people around the world supported the Republic of Zimbabwe's quest for independence, majority rule, and the protection of human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas Zimbabwe, at the time of independence in 1980, showed bright prospects for democracy, economic development, and racial reconciliation;

Whereas the people of Zimbabwe are now suffering the destabilizing effects of a serious, government-sanctioned breakdown in the rule of law, which is critical to economic development as well as domestic tranquility;

Whereas a free and fair national referendum was held in Zimbabwe in February 2000 in which voters rejected proposed constitutional amendments to increase the president's authorities to expropriate land without payment;

Whereas the President of Zimbabwe has defied two high court decisions declaring land seizures to be illegal;

Whereas previous land reform efforts have been ineffective largely due to corrupt practices and inefficiencies within the Government of Zimbabwe;

Whereas recent violence in Zimbabwe has resulted in several murders and brutal attacks on innocent individuals, including the murder of farm workers and owners;

Whereas violence has been directed toward individuals of all races;

Whereas the ruling party and its supporters have specifically directed violence at democratic reform activists seeking to prepare for upcoming parliamentary elections;

Whereas the offices of a leading independent newspaper in Zimbabwe have been bombed;

Whereas the Government of Zimbabwe has not yet publicly condemned the recent violence;

Whereas President Mugabe's statement that thousands of law-abiding citizens are enemies of the state has further incited violence;

Whereas 147 out of 150 members of the Parliament in Zimbabwe (98 percent) belong to the same political party;

Whereas no date has been set for parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe;

Whereas the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe now exceeds 60 percent and political turmoil is on the brink of destroying Zimbabwe's economy;

Whereas the economy is being further damaged by the Government of Zimbabwe's ongoing involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has issued a warning that Zimbabwe faces a food emergency due to shortages caused by violence against farmers and farm workers; and

Whereas events in Zimbabwe could threaten stability and economic development in the entire region: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its support to the vast majority of citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe who are committed to peace, economic prosperity, and an open, transparent parliamentary election process;

(2) strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe to enforce the rule of law and fulfill its responsibility to protect the political and civil rights of all citizens;

(3) supports those international efforts to assist with land reform which are consistent with accepted principles of international law and which take place after the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections;

(4) condemns government-directed violence against farm workers, farmers, and opposition party members;

(5) encourages the local media, civil society, and all political parties to work together toward a campaign environment conducive to free, transparent and fair elections within the legally prescribed period;

(6) recommends international support for voter education, domestic election monitoring, and violence monitoring activities;

(7) urges the United States to continue to monitor violence and condemn brutality against law abiding citizens;

(8) congratulates all the democratic reform activists in Zimbabwe for their resolve to bring about political change peacefully, even in the face of violence and intimidation;

(9) recommends that the United States send a bipartisan delegation under the auspices of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs to observe the parliamentary election process in Zimbabwe; and

(10) desires a lasting, warm, and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and a democratic, peaceful Zimbabwe.

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. GILMAN.

In the 14th clause of the preamble, strike "no date has been set" and insert "June 24 and June 25, 2000, are the dates".

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no comment on the amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we do not object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 500.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

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#### SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 352) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding manipulation of the mass media and intimidation of the independent press in the Russian Federation, expressing support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation, and calling on the President of the United States to express his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I believe the House needs to understand why we are proceeding in an expeditious manner, but I would ask the Chair, in deference to the fact that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) has such extraordinary experience in this area, if we could be permitted to allow him to go forward and then allow the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who has a great deal of experience in this area.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to, first of all, thank my distinguished chairman and leader, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and my distinguished good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), for bringing this very timely legislation and thank all the members on the Committee on International Relations to allow us to make a statement on the seriousness of the situation that is occurring in Russia over the last several months relative to freedom of the press.

As my friend has stated and my colleagues are aware, I have a special interest in Russia. I just made my 21st trip there last weekend with Secretary Cohen, where I was able to attend meetings with him and the defense minister and the leaders of the Duma on improving American-Russian relations.

I felt that we achieved a considerable amount of progress, but I would be less than candid if I did not tell my colleagues that there are serious problems inside of Russia. All of us were optimistic when the new President Putin took over in January and was elected in free and fair elections several months later, but there has been a pattern well documented in this bill of actions against members of the free press, including Radio Free Europe and the independent radio and TV stations in Moscow and, most recently, including the chairman and the head of Media Most Corporation, Mr. Gusinsky. In fact, the distinguished chairman knows because he was host to the number two person at Media Most. As the distinguished chairman knows, just several weeks ago, we had the number 2 person from Media Most over speaking to Members of Congress expressing the real concerns of what happened with the FSB invasion of their headquarters and the outrage that many of us felt about having this independent media feel the pressure of what appears to be the Putin government, in trying to crack down on the ability of Russians to speak out.

Russia is a fragile democracy, and that fragile democracy is going to exist and succeed only based upon the success of their free media, and we must in America speak out when we see incidences occur like the incident involving the reporter who was responding or reporting on the Chechnyan war to the efforts by Gusinsky to report on concerns within Russia about the direction of the Russian government. And while President Putin and leaders in the various factions may not agree with what is being said by the Russian media, they must understand that a free democracy must have that free speech, or it will cease to be a free democracy.

I might also add that we are heartened that Mr. Gusinsky has recently been released, but I also want to mention there are other patterns of strong-arm tactics coming out of Russia, Mr. Speaker. On April 3, one of our Pennsylvania constituents, a Penn State